

REMARKS

Claims 1--27 and 29 are pending in this application. New Claim 29 has been added. Claim 28 has been canceled.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Formal Figures 1-3 are submitted herewith in the accompanying Submission of Formal Drawings. It is believed that the formal drawings address the Examiner's objection.

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is believed that amended claim 19 addresses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,874,773 ("Newbould"). The present invention provides a workpiece chuck that provides three degrees of freedom linearly arranged. The first and second degree of freedom are rotational and their axes orthogonal to one another. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the orthogonal nature of the two rotations. It is respectfully submitted that this is not taught or suggested in Newbould. Newbould relates to an entirely different arrangement. The collet 6 is mounted on a workholder 2 that is rotationally mounted to body 1. However, body 1 is mounted to arm 9, which is laterally displaced from the workholder 1 and collet 6. This fails to provide the type of orthogonal rotational axes provided in the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection in view of Newbould respectfully is traversed.

Claims 2-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newbould in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,993 ("Prochac"). The Examiner relies on Newbould for the elements of claim 1, and Prochac is added as disclosing scales. It respectfully is submitted that these dependent claims are allowable over Newbould for the reasons stated

already regarding Newbould above, and Prochac fails to overcome these deficiencies. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been traversed.

Claims 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,273,879 ("Floren") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,492,356 ("Taniguchi"). In order to clarify the intent of claim 24 it has been amended to recite that it relates to a method of zeroing the chuck. The method of zeroing also is discussed in the specification, such as at page 8, lines 11-17. In a zeroing operation, a zero position may be a designated home position of the multi-axis chuck. A signal is received to rotate the multi-axis chuck to a first position. The multi-axis chuck is then rotated to a second position, such as a pre-specified home position. A determination is made regarding whether the first position is the second position (*i.e.*, the zero position). If a determination is made that the second position is not the first position, the multi-axis chuck is re-positioned until the multi-axis chuck is zeroed.

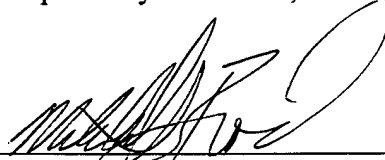
It respectfully is submitted that neither Floren nor Taniguchi disclose such a method of zeroing a workpiece chuck. As acknowledged in the Office Action concedes, Floren does not disclose a motor having a controller with a sensor and accordingly, it cannot operate the type of zeroing method claims. Taniguchi does not disclose zeroing a multi-axis chuck such that two positions are compared to determine whether the multi-axis chuck is at the zero position as claimed. Taniguchi only appears to disclose enabling an operator to position a pair of tables from a random positions and not zeroing the tables to a zero position using the claimed method. Accordingly it respectfully is submitted that the rejection of claims 24-28 has been traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance of the claims respectfully is solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss remaining issues, if there are any. The Commissioner

hereby is authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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